

Scottish Borders Council Training Programme

Session 1 – An introduction to
Participation & Participatory Budgeting (PB)

SCDC

SCDC is the lead body for community development in Scotland. We work to our vision of an active, inclusive and just Scotland where our communities are strong, equitable and sustainable.

We work directly with:

- Community groups and organisations
- Community development practitioners
- Government and other policy makers
- Local partnerships and agencies across Scotland who want to involve communities in their work



Formed in 1994, we are a charity and Company Limited by Guarantee based in Glasgow. With staff with a wealth of experience and backgrounds, we bring our firm commitment to the values and principles of community development to all aspects of our work.

What we'll cover today

- Introductions and background
- What is Participation and What is PB?
- Where has PB come from?
- Why PB? – the benefits of PB for communities, agencies, etc.

sedc

scottish
community
development
centre



On this sheep-scale, how do you feel today?





**What do we think of when we hear
the word “Participation”?**

Link in chat or go to www.menti.com on your device and use
the code

2742 0124

What do you think about when you hear "participation"?



Values and Principles of public participation

- Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a **right to be involved** in the decision-making process.
- Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will **influence** the decision.
- Public participation promotes **sustainable decisions** by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those **potentially affected by or interested in** a decision.
- Public participation seeks **input from participants** in designing how they participate.
- Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in **a meaningful way**.
- Public participation communicates to participants **how their input affected the decision**.

[IAP2 Core Values of Public Participation](#)

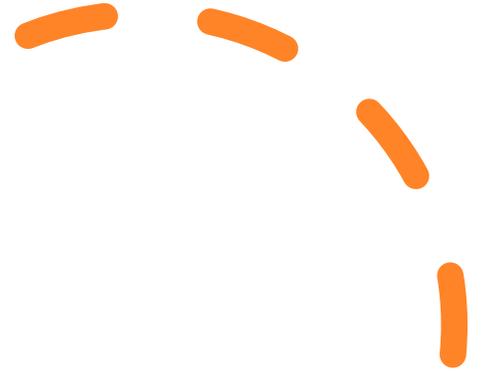
National Standards for Community Engagement



The National Standards for **Community Engagement**



**What does participation look like
within SBC?**



What does participation look like locally?

OPPORTUNITIES

Village Hall - place to meet

Education - great opportunity to start from the earliest possibility

Engagement with range of people

Understanding - A lot of people don't understand what the challenges are and also the opportunities

Apathy - all generations

BARRIERS

Language - not using concepts but plain English

over consulting

Lack of feedback when people get involved

Many marginalised people don't engage - various reasons

Lack of pace - too slow

WEAKNESSES

Equity - procedure and processes exclude many people in society

too many different funds - chasing the same issues and usually short term

People left feeling they don't matter - especially when they engage once and then never get any feedback on the outcomes.

Staffing with a wide range of skills to engage

Communities

STRENGTHS

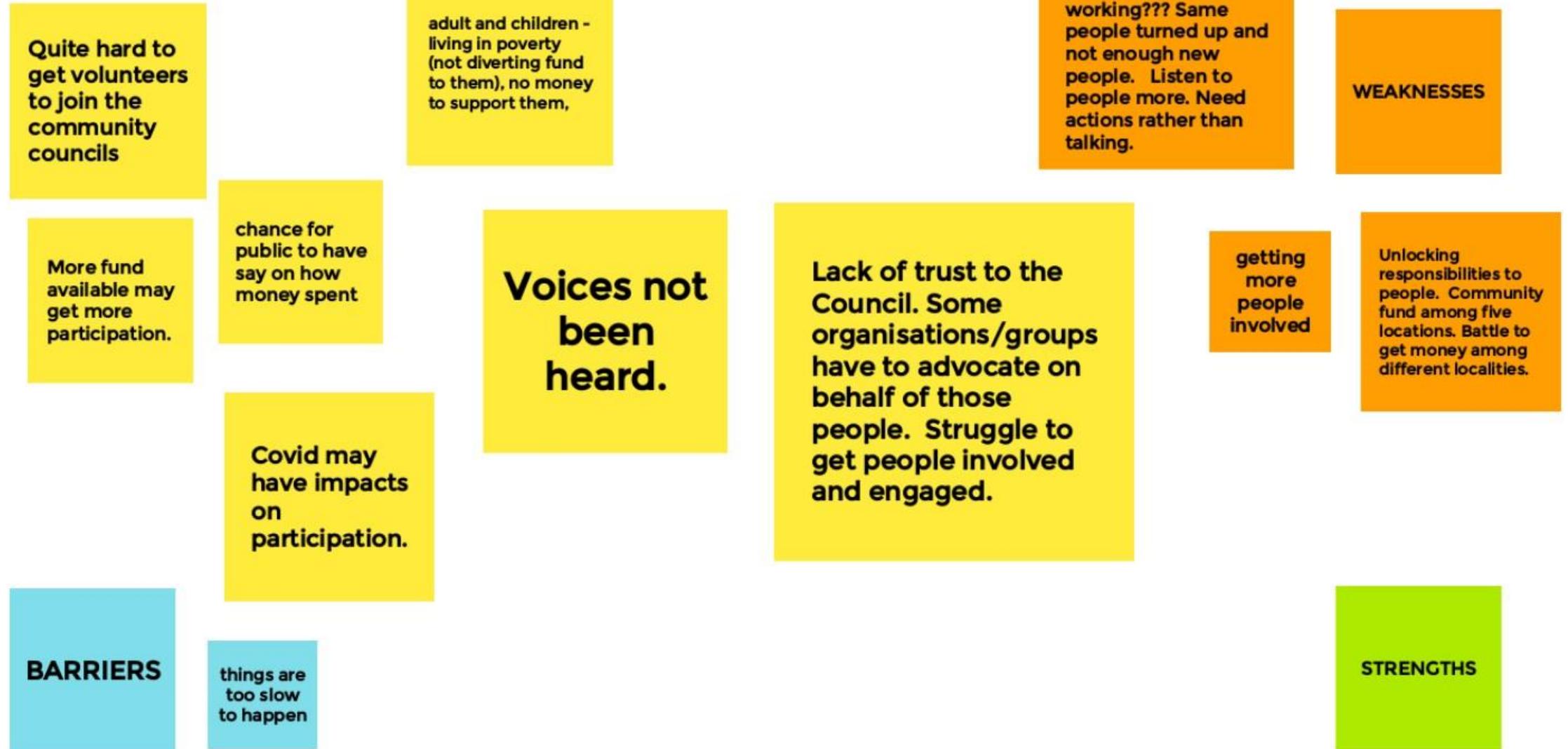
What are the benefits of PB for...



What does participation look like locally?

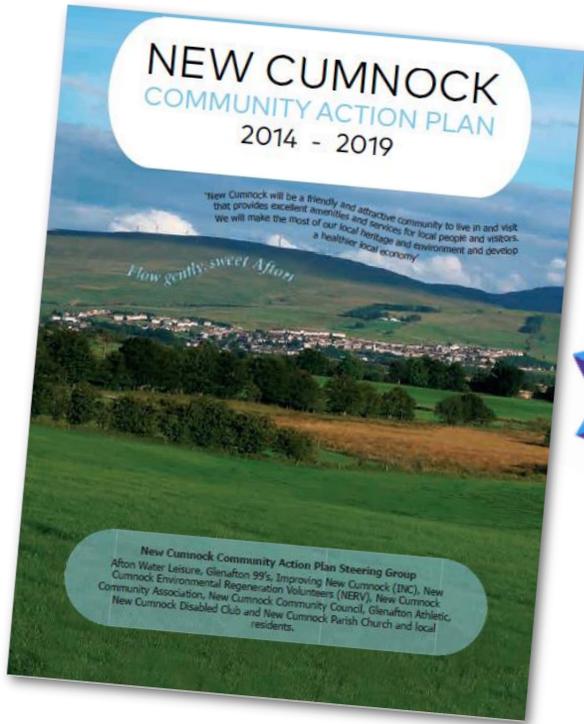


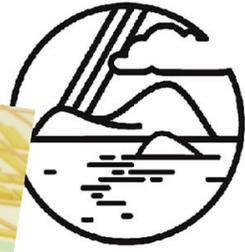
What does participation look like locally?



What does participation look like locally?







SCOTLAND
ACT 2018

THE
ISLANDS

Achd nan Eilean (Alba)

1%

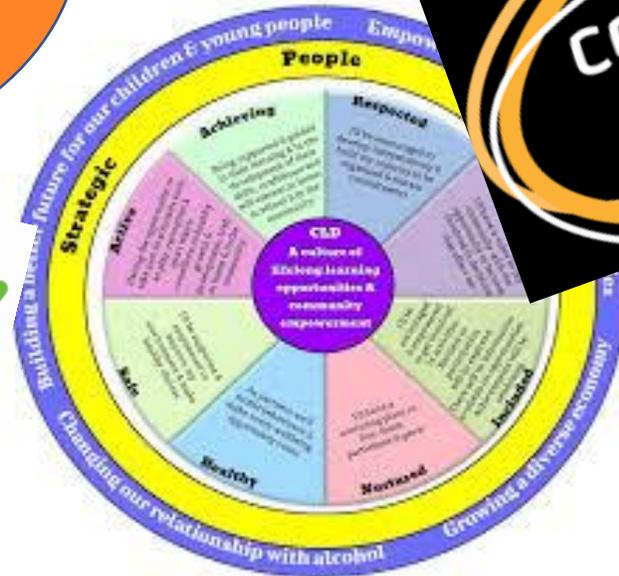
Commitment



Other
developments

Citizens' Assembly
of Scotland
Seanadh Saoranaich
na h-Alba

Democracy
Matters



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Comfort Break

10 minutes

What is Participatory Budgeting and what does it look like?

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a process of democratic deliberation and decision-making, in which citizens decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget. Participatory budgeting allows citizens to identify, discuss, and prioritise public spending projects, and gives them the power to make real decisions about how money is spent.

In Scotland this looks like:

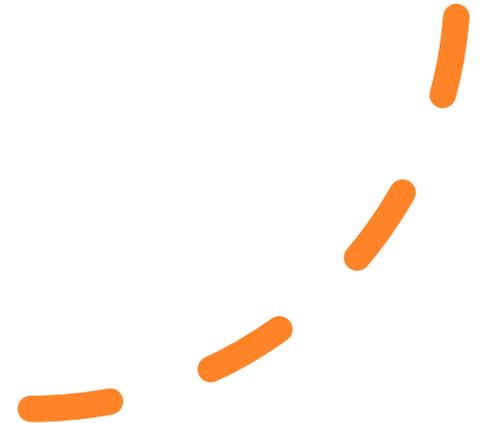
- **Small Grants PB** - Use of small pots of money/Grants for PB
- **Mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting** - The public decides where public money is spent through a fair and transparent process (including deliberation and voting)



What is Participatory Budgeting and what does it look like?

3 mins – Church of Scotland PB

(<https://pbscotland.scot/blog/2017/8/24/watch-church-of-scotland-animation-explains-pb?rq=church%20of%20scotlan>)



What is Participatory Budgeting and what does it look like?

Group Exercise

- What PB is
- What PB isn't



What is PB?



What isn't PB?



What is PB?

Communities
decide how
money is
spent

**Make
decisions**

**People
can voice
their
opinions**

**Manage
public
money**

Community
volunteers
become
decision
makers

**Having
a
choice**

What isn't PB?

It's not always
as equitable
as some
people think it
is

it's not just about
giving out money -
it's about making
sure community is
involved in
decisions

**Not all
about
council
funding**

What is PB?

**Democratic
deliberation &
decision
making**

**Not
consulting!
Influencing &
decision
making**

Choice

**Hearing
others
views**

What isn't PB?

**Not engaging
with your
community**

**Delivery of statutory
& regulatory
services with
options for
communities and an
opportunity to
influence service
delivery where
appropriate**

**Where
promoting
political or
faith based
activities**

**Where only for one
aspect of the
community and not
for the wider
community**

What is PB?

Give people in the rural area a voice.

All CC are working well on the local level, but not the SBC's resourcing level. Empowering people to engage. Need new ideas

Windfarm - channel funding and resources to different groups.

Community fund splits between rural area and Hawick. Empower rural areas by allocating funding to encourage more people to get involved.

What isn't PB?

Communicate with disengaged groups, how to re-engage them????

Need to trust the people. Need to think outside the box.

What is PB?

Voting

involves
canvassing etc
- need time
and resources
to do this

was tricky
when we
wanted votes
for a project in
Clovenfords

**being
involved
in public
spend**

**Everyone
has a say
that
wants one**

Decisions over
local spending
priorities is
PB?

**Problems
with the
voting
system?**

What isn't PB?

We did
Locality Bid
Funds - was
this PB?

When
decisions have
already been
made

Not sure that
Community
Fund or BBBB
are PB

Needs to be
very local -
individual
communities

Where has PB come from?

- 1989 – Porto Alegre (Brazil) – deliberative move to give people power over their own affairs through increasing participation and control over civic budgets (post-military dictatorship)
- Since then, PB concepts and practices have spread across the rest of the world - over 1,500 instances of PB had been implemented across five continents (as of January 2017).
- Large cities such as Barcelona, Madrid, New York and Paris are increasingly allocating larger portions of their city budgets to PB exercises; Portugal has experimented with PB at a national scale, rolling out a pilot project in which citizens were able to vote using ATM machines; and Kenya has enshrined PB in its constitution.
- It has started to take root in the UK – particularly in Scotland – as a key element of increasing participatory democracy
- Continued worldwide development including the launch of [People Powered](#) – global hub for participatory democracy

Where are we currently?

- Since 2014/15, SG has invested £6.5 million through the Community Choices Fund with local authorities providing match funding of almost £1.5m
- Mainstreaming Budgets. Agreement in October 2017 between the Scottish Government (SG) and COSLA that at least 1% of council budgets will be subject to PB by 2020/21 (although with some flexibility due to the impact of COVID-19)
- Policy: PB supports one of the principles of Public Service Reform, that people should have equal opportunity to participate and have their voice heard in decisions shaping their local community, society and their lives.
- Policy: It complements aspirations for the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which will help give communities more powers to take forward their own ambitions.
- Policy: It can help deliver the Public Sector Equality Duty by eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between different groups.

Why PB?

What are the benefits?

What are the benefits for:

- **Communities**
- **Public bodies**
- **Government**
- **Democracy**



What are the benefits of PB for...



What are the benefits of PB for...

Communities?

Being listened to

Communities take ownership of decision making?

Communities appreciate some of the difficulties and challenges involved in making some decisions / choices

Breaking through self interest - especially NHS

Public Bodies?
(e.g. Local Authority, Police, Health & Social Care, NHS, etc)

communities feel involved

Communities can influence service redesign

influence policy at a strategic level

Build trust and relationships with communities.

Can reduce the amount of complaints as community has had the choice - or remind them that they influenced the decision!

Government?

Hearing what communities want to do at a local level. Government can recognise rurality

small things can make a big difference to a community

Help to prioritise when have limited budgets

Democracy?

What are the benefits of PB for...

Communities?

Brings people together

Capacity to affect change

Ownership

Power - believing that what you vote for makes a difference

Is there a layer missing in the process? Should be wider sharing of what PB is. People are involved in their own lives and unable to give enough attention to something this big.

Evaluation - must analyse whose voice wasn't heard

Public Bodies? (e.g. Local Authority, Police, Health & Social Care, NHS, etc)

LAs get a wider view of what matters to communities and may influence other decisions

Knowing that 1% is going where people want it to go

Government?

Too big to discuss!

Positive to enable communities to voice their opinions

Democracy?

What are the benefits of PB for...



What are the benefits of PB for...

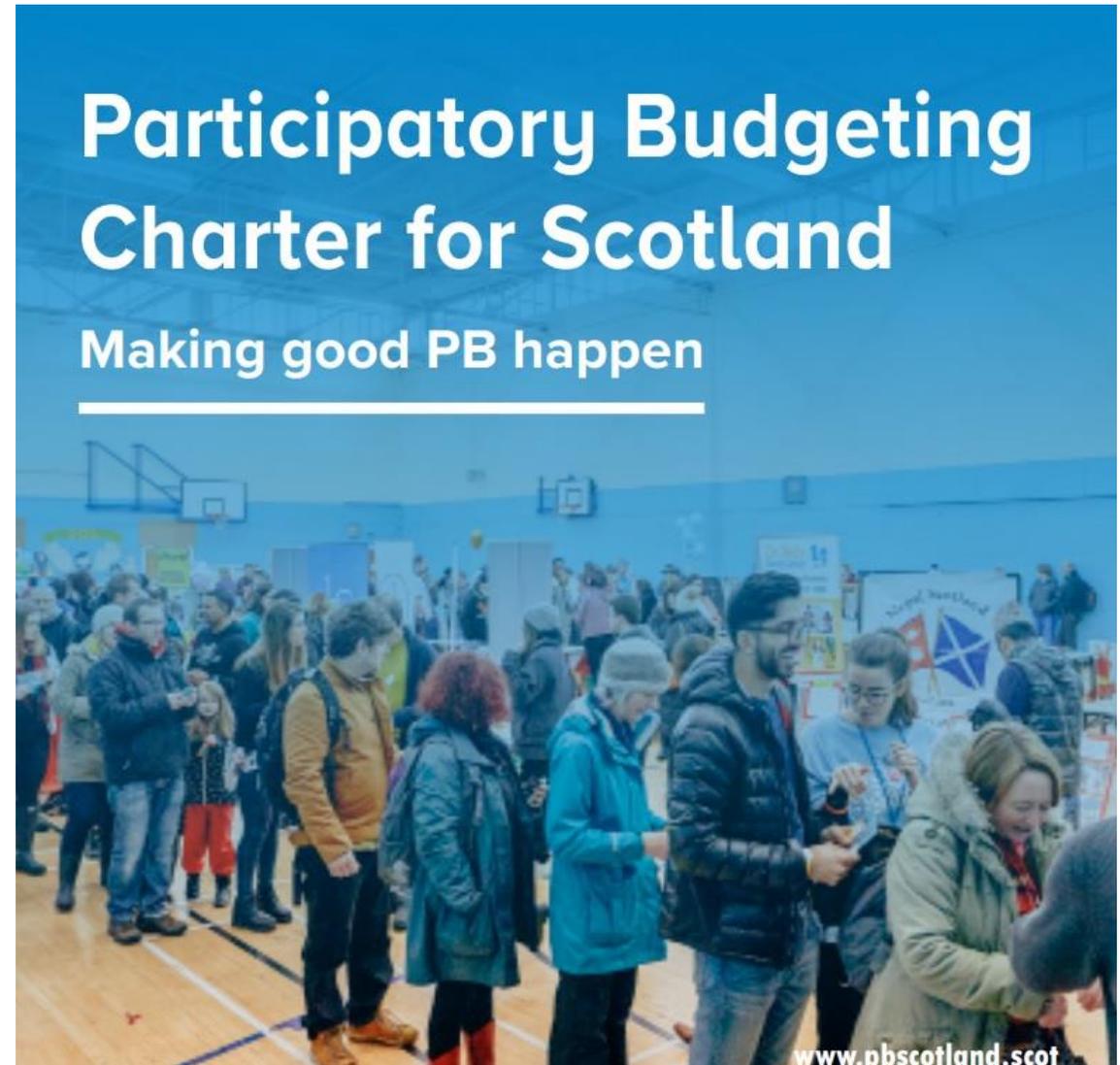


Benefits and Key Features of PB

The PB Charter outlines the key principles underpinning PB as follows:

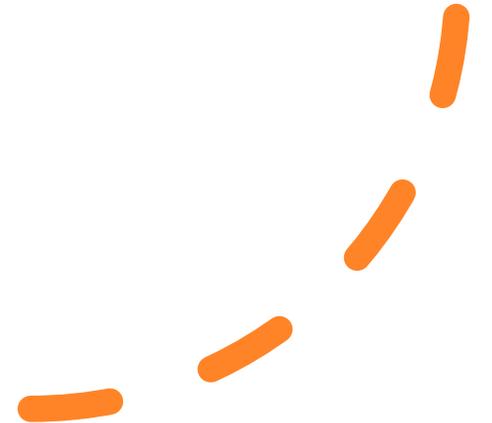
PB should be ...

- Fair and inclusive
- Participatory
- Deliberative
- Empowering
- Creative and flexible
- Transparent
- Part of our democracy



Next Session

- **Systems and Structures**
- **Policy**
- **Community Empowerment**
- **Opportunities & Barriers**



Contact...

David Allan

Deputy Director - david@scdc.org.uk or 07798 631 549

Dawn Brown

Development Manager – dawn@scdc.org.uk or 07484 023 947